



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release, February 22, 2011

From: Eric Kurth, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
(National Weather Service) 916-979-3051

Re: Weather Spotter Training, Saturday, February 26, 2011, from 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM
San Joaquin Hospital, French Camp, CA

The National Weather Service (NWS) in Sacramento will be conducting Weather Spotter Training in French Camp on Saturday, February 26, 2011. This training will enable interested adults to become volunteers for Project SKYWARN™, which helps keep local communities safe by providing timely and accurate reports of severe weather to the National Weather Service. The training is free and will take place between 9:00 AM and 11:00 AM at San Joaquin Hospital, French Camp. This training is co-sponsored by TracyARC, Manteca ARC and San Joaquin County ARES. This training is a part of Ham Radio Saturday, with additional talks focused on ham radio in the area. For more information on these additional talks and to RSVP, please e-mail eric.kurth@noaa.gov. Area citizens who are not amateur radio operators are also welcome to attend.

Storm spotters play a valuable role in the severe weather warning process. The National Weather Service relies on visual observations from spotters to provide critical information that would otherwise not be available to forecasters. Spotter reports are combined with data from Doppler radar and satellite pictures to provide a complete understanding of severe storms and their impact on the public.

The training will begin with a review of severe weather safety tips and severe weather operations at the National Weather Service. Basic storm spotter training will include visual indicators of strong winds, hail, tornadoes, lightning, fire weather, flooding and thunderstorm formation. We will demonstrate how your reports are used in the weather warning process and identify some critical elements we need to know. The presentation will also discuss the forecast process and how you can help the NWS to issue the best possible warnings to protect the public from severe weather.

This training will help attendees learn about the severe weather that we experience in the area. The development of storms will be discussed, along with visual clues which may indicate that the weather is about to turn severe. We will also go over safety tips to allow citizens to be well-prepared for the occurrence of storms. Communication of weather reports to the National Weather Service will be explained. Your spotter reports will help your fellow citizens to be better prepared when severe weather occurs!

Spotter guides, cloud charts and severe weather pamphlets will be provided to potential new weather spotters. Application forms will be made available for you to become a volunteer weather spotter. Once we receive your form at the meeting, you will be assigned a spotter number. We will also send you an information packet in the mail.

In order to gauge how many people plan to attend this training, we recommend that you contact Eric Kurth (eric.kurth@noaa.gov) with the number of people in your interested party. Be aware that space is limited. The office phone number is (916) 979-3051, if you do not have access to e-mail. We look forward to seeing you there!!